

**2009/2010 Nonpoint Source (NPS) Implementation Request for Proposals
Interesting Questions**

- Q. What is the maximum amount of money that will be awarded per project?
- A. There is no set maximum amount per project for this round of grants. We encourage those who intend to submit proposals to realistically estimate how much money the proposed project will cost and then divide the project costs into grant and match amounts proportionately according to the appropriate match formula for the proposed project.
- Q. The instructions in the Request for Proposals (RFP) indicate that projects addressing impaired waters or TMDLs are preferred, but projects to implement MS4 Phase II projects are ineligible. Our municipality was required by RIDEM to revise our Phase II plan to incorporate the recommendations of the TMDL for one of our waterbodies. Is a project aimed at addressing that TMDL still eligible even though it is also listed in our Phase II plan?
- A. Yes, that project is still eligible for grant funding – in fact, it would receive high priority for funding and significantly reduced match. The prohibition against stormwater projects extends only to addressing the 6 Minimum Measures required by the Phase II Program, not to addressing TMDL-related BMPs. Municipalities that have waterbodies with completed TMDLs are not penalized for having those TMDL implementation actions listed in their Stormwater Management Program Plans (SWMPPs).
- Q. Are there forms that I can fill out on the computer rather than printing them and doing them by hand?
- A. Yes. Please e-mail Betsy (Betsy.Dake@dem.ri.gov) and she will send you the Appendix in Word format.
- Q. Can the funds be used for dam improvements/restoration?
- A. No. The funds are only available for water quality/habitat restoration purposes.
- Q. In a neighborhood-wide stormwater management demonstration project, what level of landowner participation would RIDEM consider “sufficient” for the grant?
- A. This is a tricky question to answer – it depends on the size of the catchment, runoff volume, etc. The NPS Program does not wish to assess a fixed percentage of landowner participation to apply to all situations, as it may vary from case to case. This would have to be negotiated with RIDEM. If you have a specific question regarding a specific neighborhood, please give us a call to discuss it.

- Q. Can the funds be used for sewer main construction so that homes which are currently contributing NPS pollution to a waterbody from substandard/failing OWTS can connect?
- A. Unfortunately not. The construction of sewer mains is considered a municipal infrastructure cost and therefore is not eligible for these funds. We would suggest that any municipality that wishes to pursue funding for this type of project consider funding through the RI State Revolving Fund program. The contact for Rhode Island's SRF funding is [Jay Manning@dem.ri.gov](mailto:Jay.Manning@dem.ri.gov).
- Q. If my town is interested in developing a stormwater utility, do I have to partner with other towns in order to apply for a grant?
- A. Yes. RIDEM is interested in seeing regional stormwater utilities rather than separate utilities for each Rhode Island municipality. RIDEM feels that regionalization of stormwater services will allow for greater efficiency and economy of scale.
- Q. I work for a watershed group and our headquarters has a septic system that needs to be replaced. I've read the RFP and wonder if this would qualify under "(C) Repair or upgrade of publicly owned onsite wastewater treatment systems in order to reduce pollutant loadings. (Note: privately owned onsite systems are not eligible.)" The question would be - is our property considered private or public? We are a 501(c)3 designated non-profit.
- A. Unfortunately an onsite wastewater disposal system owned by a non-profit group would not be considered "publicly owned" therefore it would not be eligible for grant funding.